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NEW YORK FARM BUREAU

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August 12, 1981

Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Dairymen, as well as everyone else, are aware of the problems caused by the oversupply of dairy products. Not the least of these is the high cost to the Government of purchasing and storing these products acquired under the Support Price Program.

During the many discussions with the Department of Agriculture in developing the new farm legislation which includes a reduction in the level of Price Support, dairy farmers were promised an increased effort in selling surplus dairy products overseas.

It is understandable then that the dairy industry is upset when the Department of Agriculture seems about to negotiate a large sale of butter to the Soviet Union, that the State Department steps in and vetoes the sale on the ground that it would be giving the "wrong signal" to the Communist Nation.

I believe we have the right to ask why it is acceptable to sell wheat, corn and feed grains to the Soviets and then prohibit the sale of butter? Why are the producers of one commodity discriminated against while producers of other agricultural commodities get favorable treatment?

I do not accept "giving the wrong signal" as an adequate reason.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Sincerely yours,

Richard McGuire
Member of Executive Committee
American Farm Bureau Federation
President of New York Farm Bureau